

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Romano GUERMANDI ) Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
)  
Rule 53(b) Divisional of Application ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Serial No.: 08/951,672 )  
)  
Filed: September 25, 2001 )  
)  
For: MOLD FOR VULCANIZING A TIRE )  
HAVING A SPECIFIED BELT )  
PROFILE IN THE ABSENCE OF )  
LOAD AND INFLATING )  
PRESSURE (as amended) )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please enter the enclosed substitute specification filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R.  
§ 1.125.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter  
thereof, and add new claims 16-21, as follows.

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--16. A mold for vulcanizing a tire comprising axially opposite sidewalls and a tread band molded with a raised pattern formed with at least one circumferential groove, said mold comprising:

a pair of axially opposite cheeks that correspond to the sidewalls of the tire; and  
a matrix corresponding to the tread band interposed between said pair of axially opposite cheeks, said matrix including a plurality of ribs, which project in a raised configuration from a radial interior surface of the mold, for forming the raised pattern;

wherein a sectional profile of said radial interior surface comprises two concave side portions, each being defined by a respective center and a respective radius of curvature, and

wherein ridges of the ribs in an area between the two concave side portions define a radially inwardly convex surface tangent.

17. The mold of claim 16, wherein said concave side portions each have a radius of curvature ranging from about 150 mm to about 300 mm.

18. The mold of claim 16, wherein said convex surface tangent has a radius of curvature ranging from about 20 mm to about 150 mm.

19. The mold of claim 16, wherein said at least one circumferential groove corresponds to a central rib centered on an equatorial plane of the mold.

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20. The mold of claim 19, wherein the central rib includes a circumferential depression centered on the equatorial plane of the mold.

21. The mold of claim 20, wherein a ratio of height of the central rib, with respect to the radial interior surface, and depth of the circumferential depression is included between 1.75 and 6.5.--

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please amend the drawings as shown in red on the attached Request For Approval Of Drawing Change. Specifically, Fig. 3 has been amended by adding the legend --Prior Art--.

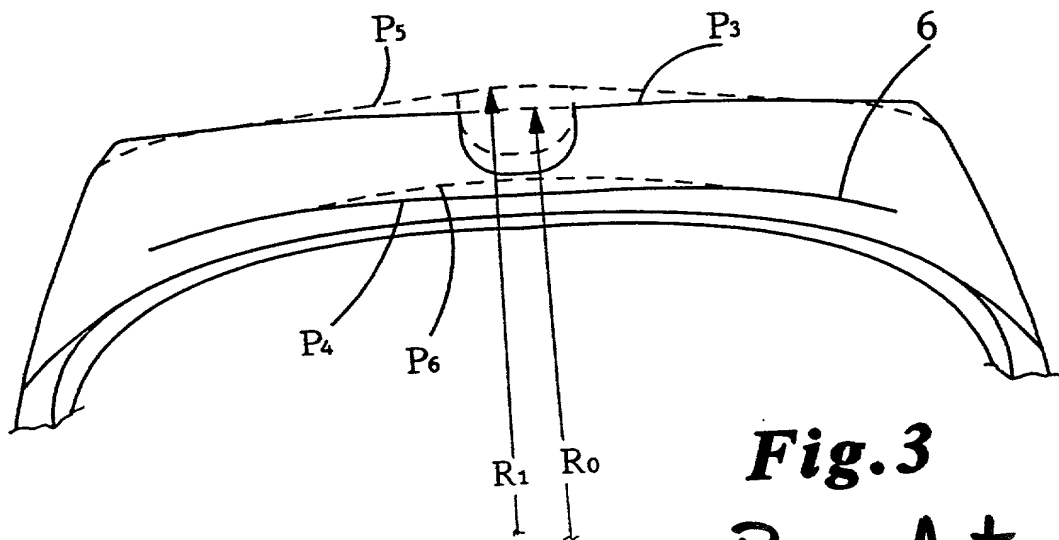
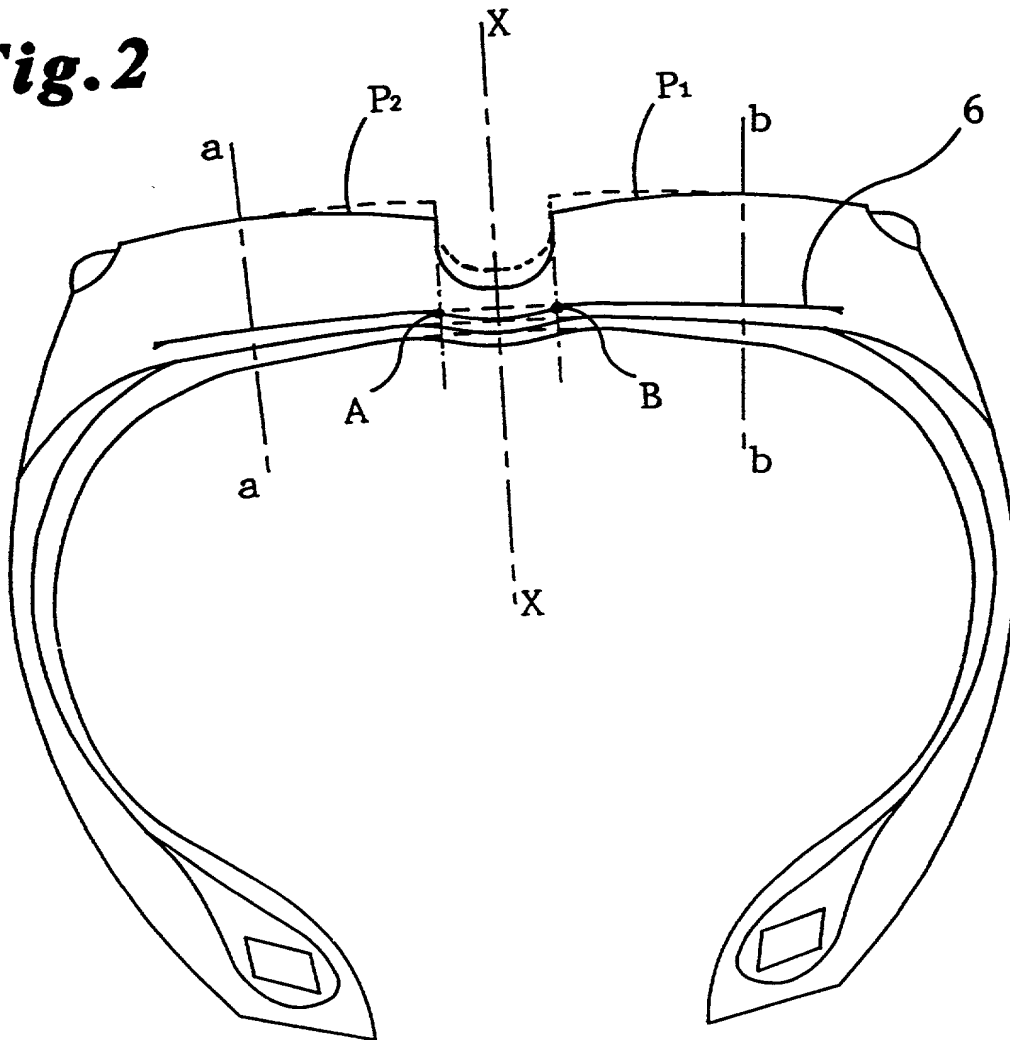
**REMARKS**

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please enter this Preliminary Amendment. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has entered a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.125. The substitute specification, which includes a new title and abstract, contains no new matter. As required by Rule 1.125, Applicant has enclosed herewith a clean version of the substitute specification along with a marked-up version of the substitute specification showing the material both added to and deleted from the original specification.

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**Fig. 2****Fig. 3**  
Prior Art